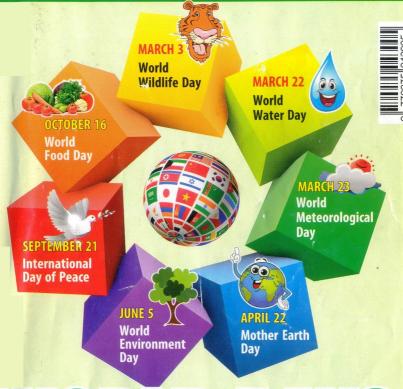
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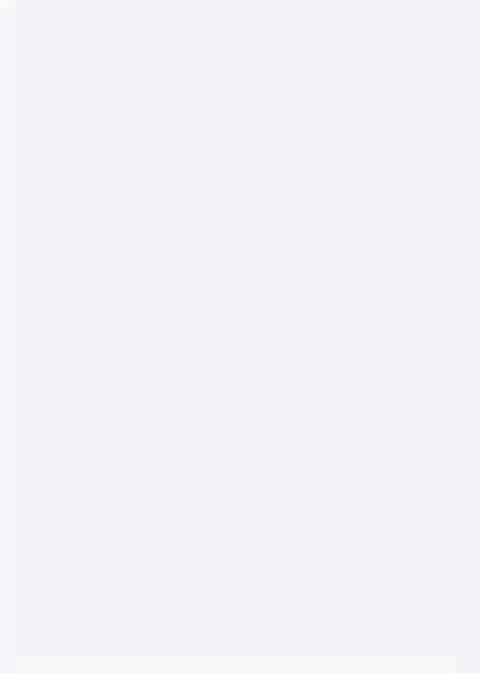
# TELLME WHY

No:90



# WORLD DAYS

SPECIAL DAYS FOR INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS









FROM THE HOUSE OF MAGIC POT, THE WEEK, MANORAMA YEARBOOK,
VANITHA & THE MALAYALA MANORAMA DAILY

### What's in a day?

Every day is a special day for someone, somewhere. For example, your birthday is just another ordinary day for the rest of the world, but for you, it is a very special, and important day. Similarly, some days are special, and have great significance not only for individuals, but for the whole world. We are talking about some such days, here. Many of these days of international observance have been established by the United Nations, or its agencies.

This issue of Tell Me Why presents our world's important days of observance for international awareness.

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### Why is January 27th a special day?

On 27<sup>th</sup> January, 1945, Auschwitz-Birkenau, a death camp run by the Nazis was liberated by the Soviet army. This camp was the largest among the many that were responsible for the death of millions of Jews, and others, who were considered enemies of the state by the Nazis. On 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005, the United Nations declared 27<sup>th</sup> January to be International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

It is the remembrance day of their suffering, courage, and determination. This day is observed by the UK, Italy, and many countries around the world, and its purpose is to honour these victims, for their lives are shining examples of the triumph of the human spirit against all odds.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

### **Day for Radio**

World Radio Day is celebrated on February 13th. Every year, UNESCO celebrates World Radio Day by planning activities with broadcasters, organizations, and communities in all countries.

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# FEBRUARY 4

# World Cancer Day



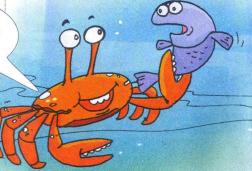
### Why do we observe World Cancer Day?

Cancer is a disease that affects the young and old, the rich and poor alike. It is also a disease that strikes fear into the hearts of people, because they think that it is not curable.

Actually, this is not so. If cancer is detected in the early stages, it can be treated very successfully. To make people realise the importance of early treatment, and to raise awareness about the disease, World Cancer Day is celebrated on February 4<sup>th</sup> every year.

World Cancer Day was founded by the Union for International Cancer Control to reduce death and illness caused by cancer. World Cancer Day also pays tribute to those who have conquered cancer, and are getting on with their lives.

Today I can't hurt you, because today is World Cancer Day.





# Why is it important to celebrate World Day of Social Justice?

oday, people have to deal with inequality and injustice in society. Tribals, migrants, the physically challenged, women, and people of different races, castes and creeds are often discriminated against.

February 20th has been declared World Day of Social Justice by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2007.

Member states of the United Nations have been asked to observe this day, and make it the focal point for steps to promote the dignity of every individual, and the development of society.

This can be done by working towards the eradication of poverty, providing employment, improving living conditions, and ensuring justice and equal opportunities to one and all. World Day of Social Justice



World Wildlife Day

### **Day for Language**

February 21st marks International Mother Language Day. The day is celebrated to promote linguistic diversity, and to bring about awareness of the importance of one's mother tongue.

### When is World Wildlife Day?

We must realise that the wellbeing of the human race is tied up in many ways- ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, and recreational and aestheticto the wellbeing of animals and plants.

The United Nations General Assembly honoured wild animals and plants, particularly endangered and protected species, by designating March 3<sup>rd</sup> as World Wildlife Day.

This date was selected because it is the anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora also known as CITES.

CITES is an international treaty that aims to ensure that global trade does not threaten the survival of listed species.





# Why do we celebrate International Women's Day?

nternational Women's Day is celebrated on March 8th every year, as a tribute to the strength and love, that a woman stands for, and the respect, love and appreciation that are rightfully due to her. Mothers and sisters, aunts and cousins, grandmothers and great aunts, girl friends and teachers, doctors, and all professional women are special to each of us in different ways.

Today, women have proved that they are equal to men in every respect. International Women's Day honours and remembers all these women. Some people celebrate this day by wearing a purple ribbon- you too can show your support of women in all walks of life by celebrating this day with them.

International Women's Day





International Day of Forests and the Tree

### **Happy Day**

The UN has proclaimed 20th March as the International Day of Happiness. This day underlines the fact that when we do things to bring happiness to others, everyone benefits. This day has been celebrated since 2012.

### Why is March 21st significant?

March 21st is significant, because it celebrates five important days. It is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, World Poetry Day, International Nowruz Day, World Down's Syndrome Day, and the International Day of Forests and the Tree.

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is dedicated to eliminating all forms of discrimination based on race. Poetry Day is a tribute to the power and beauty of poetry. International Nowruz Day celebrates the start of the Persian spring festival. The International Day of Forests and the Tree, promoted by the UN, provides a platform to raise awareness about the importance of all types of forests, and of trees outside forests.



### Why is World Water Day celebrated?

Water is the essence of life. We all know this, yet we use water carelessly, and waste it without a second thought. What we do not realise is that our sources of fresh water are decreasing, and we are using whatever we have faster than it can be replenished. If this continues, the world will soon go thirsty.

We have to act now to save our water resources, and so, on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1992, the United Nations adopted a resolution by which the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March of each year was declared World Water Day. The first World Water Day was observed in 1993.

World Water Day



World Days

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# World Meteorological Day

### World Autism Awareness Day

April 2nd has been proclaimed by the UN as World Autism
Awareness Day. To put it very simply, autism is a disorder that affects the way a person communicates, and relates to people around him or her.

### Why is March 23rd special?

Weather plays an important part in our everyday lives. Farmers watch the weather to determine when to plough, sow, and harvest the crops, pilots and sailors have to watch the weather while flying or sailing. Even the food we eat, and the clothes we wear, depend on the weather.

The science of studying and forecasting weather is called meteorology. The UN recognizes the importance of weather, climate, and meteorological forecasting to the environment and our well-being, and so, each year, on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the World Meteorological Organization, and the worldwide meteorological community celebrates World Meteorological Day around a chosen theme.

12 Tell Me Why



# Why is March 24th observed as World TB Day?

Tuberculosis, or TB is a disease that affects nearly one and a half million people each year. Yet, they can all be cured if the disease is detected early and treated- and this is possible today because of the work of one man- Dr. Robert Koch. In 1882, when TB was raging through Europe and America, Dr.Koch discovered the cause of TB- the TB Bacillus. His discovery opened the way for the testing, diagnosis, treatment, and cure of tuberculosis.

It marked a turning point in the story of infectious human diseases, and March 24<sup>th</sup> is celebrated as World TB Day as a tribute to Dr. Koch, for it was on this day that he announced his discovery. This day is promoted by the WHO.

### World TB Day



Dr. Robert Koch

### **Day of Days**

March 21st is unique in that on this date, the maximum number of world days and international days are celebrated.



International Day of Sport for Development and Peace



Why did the UN decide to observe the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace?

Sport not only builds a healthy body and mind- it can be an important tool for development and peace too. The United Nations realised this, and proclaimed April 6th as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.

Sport can bring people closer together, erase cultural, linguistic, and geographic barriers, and promote the principles of personal integrity, fair play, and honourable competition. Therefore, it is important that we provide access to sport to as many people as possible, and also create awareness of its role on the world stage, by celebrating the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.



# Why do we celebrate World Health Day?

World Health Day is celebrated on 7<sup>th</sup> April to mark the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization, or WHO in 1948.

Each year, a theme is selected for World Health Day that highlights an important area of public health concern in the world.

In 2014, the theme is vector- borne diseases. Vectors are organisms that transmit pathogens and parasites from one infected person, or animal, to another. The emphasis this year will be on combating these diseases through different steps, including the provision of safe drinking water and proper sanitation systems.

World Health Day

Dedicated to World Health Day.





### Mother Earth Day

# International Day of Mine Awareness

April 4th is the International Day of Mine
Awareness and
Assistance in Mine
Action. The aim of this
day is to raise
awareness about
landmines, and to work
towards stopping their
use.

# Why is International Mother Earth Day important?

nternational Mother Earth Day- or Earth Day as it is simply called- aims at increasing awareness of the challenges to the well-being of our planet, and the life it supports. International Mother Earth Day aims to raise awareness that we have a responsibility to promote harmony with nature.

International Mother Earth Day is celebrated on April 22<sup>nd</sup> every year. We must all realise that the Earth and its ecosystems provide life and sustenance to everything. Earth Day aims to raise awareness that we have a responsibility to promote harmony with nature, and to balance the economic, and environmental needs of future generations.



# Why is English Language Day celebrated?

We are all proud of our mother tongue, yet no one can deny that English is a world language. It is widely spoken, and is the common language by which people of different nationalities can communicate with one another.

World English Language Day is celebrated on 23<sup>rd</sup> April every year. The date was chosen because it is the birthday of William Shakespeare, one of the greatest English poets and dramatists of all time. English Language Day aims to entertain and inform people about the history, culture, and achievements associated with the language. The day often features book-reading events, and other activities that promote the English language.

English Language Day



William Shakespeare



Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare



### Why is April 29th special?

April 29th is a special day, because it is the Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare. Conventional warfare is waged with bullets, and explosive devices, but chemical warfare involves the use of toxic chemicals to injure, kill, and cause permanent damage. Chemical weapons cause death in inhuman and horrible ways, and kill everyone in any environment where they are used, unlike bullets and bombs that have specific targets.

The UN has set aside 29th April every year, to remember those who are the victims of this horrific method of warfare. The goal of this day is also to spur governments to end the threat of chemical weapons, and to promote peace and security worldwide.



# Why is World Press Freedom Day celebrated?

Freedom of speech and expression is one of our basic rights, and freedom of the press is especially important to protect these rights.

World Press Freedom Day is celebrated on May 3<sup>rd</sup> every year. The purpose of this day is to reaffirm the fundamental principles that ensure freedom of the press, to assess the state of press freedom throughout the world, to defend the media from attacks on their independence, and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty. UNESCO marks World Press Freedom Day by conferring the UNESCO - Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize on a deserving individual, or institution.

World Press Freedom Day

### **Day for Books**

World Book and Copyright Day, which falls on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, is celebrated as a world-wide tribute to books and authors to encourage everyone to discover the pleasure of reading.



### Day of Remembrance for Victims of World War II

### **World Malaria Day**

Malaria was once a dreaded disease, but over the last decade, great strides have been made in fighting it. However, malaria still kills an estimated 660 000 people worldwide. World Malaria Day falls on 25<sup>th</sup> April every year, and its aim is to highlight the need to control and eradicate malaria.

# How do we remember those who lost their lives in World War II?

On 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2004, the UN declared May 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> as a 'Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War.' These dates were chosen because May 8<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary of the date when the World War II Allies accepted the unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Germany, which marked the end of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.

Articles about remembering World War II victims are published during this time of the year. Some organizations, may have special wreath laying ceremonies at cemeteries or memorials, to remember World War II soldiers who died fighting for their country.

20 Tell Me Why



# Why do we observe World Migratory Bird Day?

Migratory birds connect all corners of the world, and different environments, as they migrate from one place to another. During the course of their long journeys, they need places to rest, feed, and breed. Sadly, such places are becoming less and less available, and many of these birds are now threatened, as their habitats are being destroyed.

World Migratory Bird Day is an annual event to raise awareness about this problem. It falls on the second weekend of May, and this year, it will be celebrated on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. During these two days, people around the world will take action and organize public events to highlight the need for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats.

### World Migratory Bird Day

Want to migrate? Wait, the migratory day is coming up....





International Day of Families

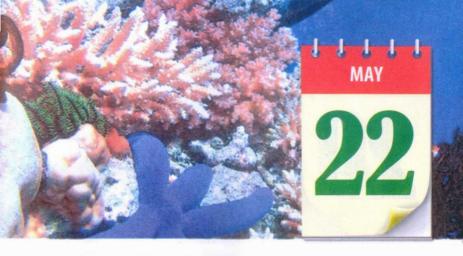
# Why is May 15<sup>th</sup> an important date for families?

Our family is our world, and it is said that families hold the world together. Yet, as the world and society change, the structure and stability of the family unit in many places has been affected.

Therefore, in 1993, the UN declared that May15<sup>th</sup> shall be observed every year as the International Dayof Families, to highlight the importance of family as the basic unit on which the wellbeing of society depends.

The International Day of Families has inspired a series of awareness-raising events, including national family days.

In many countries, that day provides an opportunity to highlight different areas of interest and importance to families.



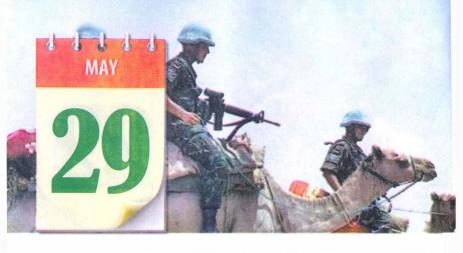
# Why do we celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity?

Biodiversity, or biological diversity, is the term used to describe the variety of life found on Earth, and all of the natural processes. This includes the ecosystem, genetic and cultural diversity, and the connections between these and all species. We have only just started to understand the relationships between living beings and their environments, and unfortunately, biodiversity is today under threat from many sides.

To increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues, the UN has proclaimed May 22<sup>nd</sup> as the International Day for Biological Diversity.

In 2014, the theme will be Island Biodiversity.

International Day for Biological Diversity



### International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers



# Why is May 29th a special day for the UN?

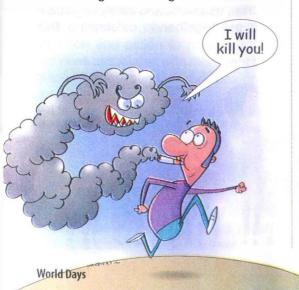
Peacekeeping is one of the activities undertaken by the United Nations to maintain international peace and security. The United Nations Peacekeeping Forces are employed by the organization to maintain, or re-establish peace in an area of armed conflict. There are currently 16 UN peacekeeping operations spread across four continents, and the UN has proclaimed May 29th as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.

It is a day to remember those who served in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and also to honour the memory of people who died in the name of peace.

### Why should we observe World No-Tobacco Day?

t has been proved that cigarettes and all other forms of tobacco are harmful to our health. In fact, it has been estimated that the use of tobacco leads to 5.4 million deaths in the world, every year. In 1987, the World Health Organization proclaimed May 31st as World No-Tobacco Day.

The purpose was to encourage a 24 hour period during which people would voluntarily abstain from the use of tobacco everywhere in the world. Since then, World No-Tobacco Day is celebrated every year on May 31st, with the aim of opening the eyes of the public to the dangers of using tobacco.





World No-TobaccoDay

# World Intellectual Property Day

The term 'intellectual property' refers to the right of creative people to 'own' whatever they produce, such as literary or artistic works, as well as other 'properties' like patents, industrial processes, and business methods. World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated on April 26th every year.



Global Day of Parents

# Why do we have a Global Day of Parents?

We all love our parents, but very often, we forget to tell them so. We also tend to take for granted their sacrifices, and their efforts to give us the best and to do what is best for us. So in 2012, the United Nations established a new International Day- the Global Day of Parents.

This day is to be observed every year on June 1st with the purpose of honouring parents throughout the world. The Global Day of Parents gives people all over the world, the opportunity to appreciate parents and parental figures for the vital role they play in the development of families. Community leaders, parents, children, teachers, and family organizations get together in celebrating this day.





# Why is World Environment Day important?

World Environment Day was first celebrated in 1972. Today, it is one of the main tools by which the United Nations creates awareness of the environment, and encourages political attention and action to protect it. The activities associated with this event take place all year round, and climax on 5th June every year.

It is a day for people from all walks of life to come together to ensure a greener and brighter outlook for themselves, and future generations. Each World Environment Day has a special topic that is related to the environment. World Environment Day is celebrated in many ways. Street rallies, and plays create awareness about our environment.

### **World Environment Day**

### **Day for Safety**

April 28th is World Day for Safety and Health and Work. The purpose of observing this day is to promote the prevention of accidents and diseases related to the workplace.



World Oceans Day

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# Why do we celebrate World Oceans Day?

World Oceans Day on June 8<sup>th</sup> is a time to remember the life-giving role of oceans. It is the oceans of the world that make the planet habitable for mankind.

The weather, climate, coastlines, the food we eat, and even the oxygen in the air that we breathe, are all regulated by the oceans. Yet our oceans and their resources are being destroyed as they face pressure from various types of pollution and over-exploitation.

To raise awareness for the need to protect and conserve our oceans, the UN declared June 8th to be World Oceans Day. To celebrate this day, a lot of events and activities coordinated with aquariums, conservation organizations, universities and schools are developed.

Tell Me Why

We are celebrating Oceans Day.



# Why do we have a World Day against child labour?

Childhood should be a time of joy, yet around the world large numbers of children are engaged in paid or unpaid domestic work, as agricultural labourers, in small industries, and even in dangerous activities. In fact, some 218 million children are trapped in child labour.

To fight against this evil, the World Day against Child Labour was launched by the International Labour Organization in 2002. The aim of this day is to focus attention on the extent of child labour throughout the world, and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. The World Day against Child Labour is observed on June 12th every year in countries around the world.

World Day against Child Labour

# International Jazz Day

30th April is celebrated every year as International Jazz Day. Jazz is a form of music that is popular the world over, and this day highlights jazz as a force for peace and unity among all people.



# World Blood Donor Day

# Information Technology

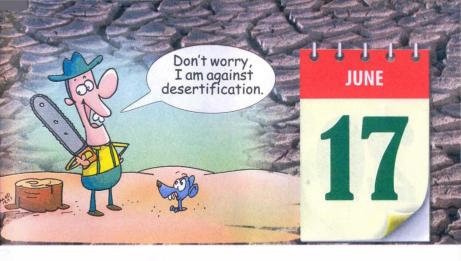
World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is celebrated on the 17th of May every year. The day is dedicated to increasing awareness about the possibilities for education, information, and communication that are now available through the Internet.

# Why do we observe World Blood Donor Day?

When you donate blood, you save the life of another person. However, many people are reluctant to donate, thinking that when they give blood, they will become weaker. Actually, this is not so at all, for the body replaces the blood that is donated very quickly.

To create awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products, and to thank voluntary unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood, countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day on June 14<sup>th</sup> every year.

Since 2004, World Blood Donor Day has honoured such blood donors, and highlighted the unique life-saving role they play in the health of their community.

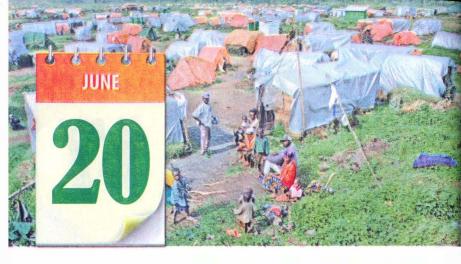


### Why is June 17th important?

t has been established that droughts are becoming more common, and also that desertification is also rising. The term 'desertification' refers to the process by which fertile land becomes desert, as a result of drought, deforestation, or poor agricultural practices.

The world's deserts expand and contract in response to natural changes in climatic conditions, but desertification is a phenomenon caused by human activities. It is important that steps must be taken to prevent desertification, and to help areas that have been struck by drought to recover. To highlight the ways in which this can be done, the United Nations has declared June 17<sup>th</sup> as World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought



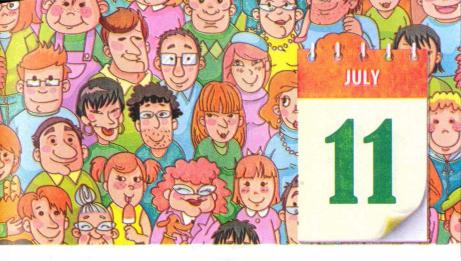
World Refugee Day

# Why is World Refugee Day of special importance?

War and conflict are always terrible tragedies- and one of the saddest after effects is when people are forced to flee their homes and their countries, leaving behind everything that they have worked for, and everything that is precious to them. Such people are called refugees. Very often, they place a heavy burden on the country to which they flee, and are not welcomed there.

World Refugee Day was established by the UN to honour the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homes under threat of persecution, conflict, and violence. It is observed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June every year. Countries all over the world observe this day.

32 Tell Me Why



# What is the significance of World Population Day?

World Population Day was first observed on 11<sup>th</sup> July, in 1987. On this day, the world population reached five billion people, and in 2012, that number crossed seven billion.

**Population** aims World Dav to people's awareness increase various population issues such as the importance of family planning, including gender equality, poverty, maternal health and human rights. The day is celebrated worldwide by community organizations and individuals in many ways. This day is observed in more than 200 countries to bring awareness to people about the importance of having small families, and living healthy lives.

World Population Day

### **Day of Diversity**

21st May is the World
Day for Cultural
Diversity for Dialogue
and Development. The
day is celebrated with
the goal of helping
people learn about the
importance of cultural
diversity, and to appreciate and value this
diversity.



International Youth Day

### Day of Vesak

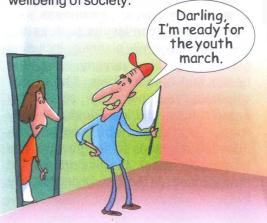
The birthday of
Gautama Buddha, who
is the founder of
Buddhism, is
celebrated as the Day of
Vesak. This day
commemorates
Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death.
'Vesak' is the day of the
full moon, and the day
is celebrated in the
month of May every
year.

# Why do we observe International Youth Day?

he future of the world lies in the hands of the youth of today, and so, it is very important to ensure that they are healthy in body and mind, and to provide opportunities for young people to learn, earn and grow. International Youth Day was first celebrated on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2000.

Since then, it has been celebrated each year to recognize efforts of the world's youth in enhancing global society. It also aims to promote ways to engage them in becoming more actively involved in making positive contributions to their communities.

International Youth Day is an important step taken by the UN to shape young people as a positive force for the wellbeing of society.



Tell Me Why



# Why is World Humanitarian Day observed?

A simple definition for the word 'humanitarian' is 'someone concerned about the welfare and happiness of other people'.

Every year, on August 19th, the UN observes World Humanitarian Day to honour those who have lost their lives in the service of others, and those who continue to work to bring help and relief to the millions who are suffering.

This date was chosen, because it was on August 19<sup>th</sup> 2003, that a brutal terrorist attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad killed 22 people. World Humanitarian Day, gives us an opportunity to celebrate this spirit of selfless work for the good of humanity.

World Humanitarian
Day



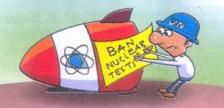
International Day against Nuclear Tests

# Why is the International Day against Nuclear Tests important?

Nuclear weapons are considered to be a sign of a country's scientific sophistication and military might. However, the testing of these devices can have very harmful effects on people and the environment.

The first nuclear device was tested on 16th July, 1945, and since then, thousands of tests have taken place. The United Nations therefore, decided to declare 29th August as the International Day Against Nuclear Tests, with

the purpose of informing and educating people on the importance of a ban on nuclear weapons testing, in order to make the world safer and more secure.





# What is the International Day of Charity?

Charity is anything that is given to help the needy. It can be money, clothes, food, medicines or support of any kind. Charity can be practiced by an individual, an organization, or an institution. If each of us did our bit for charity, the world would definitely be a better place.

The International Day of Charity was established by the UN to highlight the importance of charity, and encourage people to devote more time and effort to charity. It is celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> September every year, because this date marks the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa, the renowned nun and missionary, who devoted her life to helping the poor, the sick, and the destitute.

International Day of Charity

# Day for Public Service

THe 23rd of June is observed as the United Nations Day for Public Service. This day underlines the value and virtue of public service to the community, and in the cause of development.



# International Literacy Day

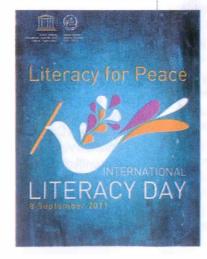
#### Why is September 8th important?

Can you imagine what life would be like if you did not know how to read and write? The sad fact is that more than 774 million of the world's adults -nearly

two-thirds of whom are womendo not know how to read or write

The United Nations believes that literacy- or the basic education that gives us at least reading and writing skills- is the right of every individual, and an important tool for progress and social development.

It has therefore, proclaimed September 8<sup>th</sup> as International Literacy Day, to raise people's awareness and concern for literacy issues in the world.





Democracy

Why do we need an International Day of Democracy?

Democracy is a form of government in which people choose their leaders by voting for them. Its roots can be traced back to the time of the Ancient Greeks.

Today, the goal of democracy is to preserve and promote the dignity and rights of the individual, achieve social equality and justice, and nurture economic and social development to ensure the wellbeing of society.

The UN has declared 15th September as the International Day of Democracy with the aim of raising public awareness, and strengthening the ideals of democracy around the world.

International Day of Democracy

#### No to Drugs

26th June is the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. This day underlines the need to raise awareness of the harm caused by illicit drugs.



International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

# **International Day** of Co-operatives

The first Saturday of July is observed every year as the International Day of Co-operatives. Co-operatives play an important role in the world's economic and social development, and this Day aims to increase awareness of their benefits.

# Why does the UN observe the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer?

Ozone is a natural gas that is found in two different layers of the atmosphere. In the upper layer, ozone protects life on Earth by absorbing some of the sun's UV rays. Too much UV rays can cause skin cancer, and will also harm all plants and animals.

However, certain chemicals that we use can destroy the ozone layer. These substances include chlorofluorocarbons also known as CFCs. Since 1995, on 16<sup>th</sup> September each year, the UN celebrates the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. The purpose of this day is to focus attention and action at the global level, on the protection of the ozone layer.

Tell Me Why



# When is the International Day of Peace?

The International Day of Peace is celebrated on September 21<sup>st</sup> every year. The day, which was first celebrated in 1982, provides an opportunity for individuals, and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It also serves to strengthen the ideals of peace, both within, and among all nations and peoples.

The International Day of Peace recognizes the efforts of those who have worked hard to promote peace. It is also a day of ceasefire — personal and political- a day to make peace in your own relationships as well as in regions where conflicts are happening. Special activities and celebrations take place all across the world on this day.

International Day of Peace



#### **World Maritime Day**

We are going to celebrate the Maritime Day.

#### Why is World Maritime Day important?

he maritime industry, which includes ships and shipping, has played an important role in history, and in the development of trade. Shipping has long been the major form of transport, as well as an essential communication link connecting continents.

Though shipping is perhaps the most international of all the world's great industries, it is also one of the most

dangerous. To focus attention on the importance of shipping safety, the International Maritime Organization celebrates World Maritime Day in the last week of September every year. The event's date varies by year and country.



#### Why is World Tourism Day celebrated?

Tourism and the tourism industry are growing by leaps and bounds. The United Nations has recognized the importance of tourism as a tool for progress, for education, and for global bonding, and declared 27th September as World Tourism Day.

Every year, this day is celebrated to foster awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism, and its social, cultural, political, and economic value.

The date has been fixed to coincide with the end of the tourism season in the northern hemisphere, and the beginning of the season in the southern hemisphere, for this is a time when tourism triggers great interest within all the continents of the world.

**World Tourism Day** 

#### A Day for Mandela

18th July is celebrated every year as Nelson Mandela Day, for it was on this date that he was born. The day remembers Mandela's achievements in working towards democracy and human rights.



International Day of Older Persons

# World Hepatitis Day

28th July is observed every year as World Hepatitis Day. The day focuses on the need to increase the awareness of viral hepatitis and the diseases that it causes.

# Why should we celebrate the International Day of Older Persons?

Today, worldwide, there are around 600 million persons aged 60 years and above. This number will double by 2025.

The United Nations has proclaimed October 1<sup>st</sup> as the International Day of Older Persons. On this day, we recognize the contributions of older persons, and examine issues that affect their lives.

In many countries, politicians make speeches, particularly those responsible for government departments that focus on senior citizens, at this time of the year. Other activities include displays of promotional material in schools, offices and public notice boards and undertaking activities that promote the welfare of older persons.

44 Tell Me Why



# When is International Day of Non-Violence observed?

The United Nations has declared October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, to be the International Day of Non-Violence. Mahatma Gandhi was the leader of the Independence Movement in India, and a great visionary who believed that non-violence was the only way to achieve not only freedom from British rule, but also to lead honest lives, to establish a just and caring society, and to achieve social and political change.

His philosophy caught the imagination of the world, and inspired many civil rights movements. Today, the world observes this day in his honour, and seeks to uphold his legacy through public awareness programmes.

## International Day of Non-Violence

I'm skipping today's meal. Now you can enjoy the privilege of non-violence day.





#### **World Teachers' Day**

#### Why is World Teachers' Day important?

our teacher plays a very important role in your life, instilling the right values in you, opening the doors to new horizons of knowledge, and helping to mould your character. Therefore, in 1994, the United Nations decided to mobilize support for teachers, and to ensure that the needs of future generations will continue to be met by teachers, by observing October 5th every year as World Teachers' Day.

Over 100 countries observe this day annually, and the events include celebrations to honour teachers in general, or those who have made a special contribution to a particular community. Today, the world has realized that only good teachers can offer quality education, which, in turn, can offer a better standard of living for all.



#### What is the significance of October 9th?

Even in an age of e-mails and SMS messages, the postman is a part of our everyday lives, and letters still remain a very personal and persuasive way of communicating.

It has been estimated that there are around 600,000 post offices globally, and postal services have played an important role in the history and development of a country.

The UN has therefore, declared October 9<sup>th</sup> as World Post Day, with the goal of creating awareness of the role of the postal sector in everyday lives.

More than 150 countries celebrate World Post Day, and many of them use the event to promote postal products and services. In many countries, new stamps are issued.

**World Post Day** 

# International Day of Friendship

Friendship between peoples and countries can inspire peace efforts, and build bridges between communities. The UN recognizes this fact, and has declared 30th July as the International Day of Friendship.





Why is World Mental Health Day observed?

Let's observe Mental Health Day.

48

World Mental Health Day, which is supported by the United Nations is annually held on October

annually held on October 10th. This day is observed to raise public awareness of mental health issues worldwide.

Mental health is defined as a state of well-being in which people realise their own potential, can cope with normal life stresses, can work productively, and can contribute to their community.

World Mental Health Day is observed in more than 150 countries worldwide.



# When is the International Day of the Girl Child celebrated?

n many places in the world, girls are not treated equally with boys. Girls have to face many challenges in society, including violence and discrimination.

The United Nations took an important step to put an end to such injustice when it declared 11th October as the International Day of the Girl Child. This day focuses on the challenges faced by girls, and highlights their rights.

This day is very important, because there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done to ensure that all girls receive the same opportunity in education, and that each is empowered to believe that she is part of the next generation of change makers.

International Day of the Girl Child

#### **Prevent Suicide**

World Suicide
Prevention Day is
observed on
September 10<sup>th</sup> each
year to promote
worldwide action to
prevent suicides.



#### World Food Day

Dad, I'm waiting for the World

#### Why do we celebrate World Food Day?

he next time you sit down to a meal, or push your plate away because you don't like something on it, or waste your food, just remember the fact that there are an estimated 842 million hungry people on the planet.

To raise the issues leading to poverty and hunger, the United Nations observes

October 16th as World Food day. It was on this day in 1945 that the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN was founded. World Food Day offers an opportunity to strengthen national and international solidarity in the fight to end hunger and malnutrition.





#### Why is October 17th an important date?

Every day, people living in extreme poverty are challenged, and threatened by lack of food, shelter, and access to essential services. Steps must be taken to eradicate poverty, and awareness must be created of the need for these steps, and therein lies the importance of October 17<sup>th</sup>, which was declared by the United Nations to be the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

On this day, people recognize the effort and struggle of people living in poverty, give them a chance to make their concerns heard, and encourage them to lead the charge against poverty. To support this fight against poverty, we must create jobs, and nurture social protection systems.

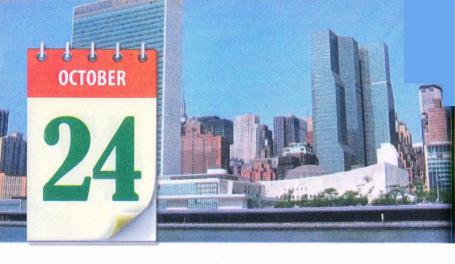
International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

#### **Prevent Rabies**

Rabies is a fatal disease that human beings can get from the saliva of infected dogs, and certain other mammals. World Rabies Day is observed every year on September 28th.

The date was chosen because it is the day on which Louis Pasteur, who played a key role in developing a vaccine to

prevent rabies, died.



#### **United Nations Day**

#### **Habitat Day**

The natural homes of humans, animals, plants and organisms are called their habitats. The United Nations has designated the first Monday of October to be celebrated as World Habitat Day every year. This day provides an opportunity for us to reflect on the state of human settlements. and people's right to sufficient shelter- now, and in the future.

#### Why is October 24th special?

he United Nations celebrates many days, but 24th October is special, because this is its day! This day has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.

The UN officially came into existence on 24th October 1945. The purpose of the UN is to bring all nations of the world together to work for peace and development, based on the principles of justice, human dignity, and the well being of all people.

United Nations Day is an occasion to highlight, celebrate and reflect on the work of the United Nations and its agencies.

On and around October 24th, many activities are organized by the UN, particularly in the main offices.

52 Tell Me Why



# What is the significance of World Science Day for Peace and Development?

Science has changed our lives in extraordinary ways. At the same time, science can also be misused by those who want to create conflict, and trigger violence. So, it is important that nations be totally committed to using science only for the common good.

As the first step towards this goal, the first World Science Day for Peace and Development was celebrated worldwide on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2002. Since then, it has been celebrated every year on this date to raise awareness of the benefits of science worldwide. This day is an occasion to encourage nations to share the benefits of science, and to renew the commitment to use science for the well-being of humanity.

#### **World Science Day**

An invitation from the Earth to attend Science Day celebrations.





# Universal Children's Day

#### **Reducing Disaster**

The International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction is observed on the second Wednesday of October every year to increase awareness about the ways in which people can deal with natural disasters.

# Why do we observe Universal Children's Day?

he future of the world lies in the hands of our children, and therefore, it is only right that there should be a special day declared for them. Children's Day is celebrated on November 20th each year to promote international togetherness and awareness among children worldwide.

In India, Children's Day is celebrated on November 14th to coincide with the birthday of Pandit Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, who had a special fondness for children. Children's Day is an occasion to show children that they are valuable members of society, and to remind everyone that children have rights that must be guaranteed, and that little ones need love and respect to grow to their full potential.

54 Tell Me Why



#### Why is World Television Day special?

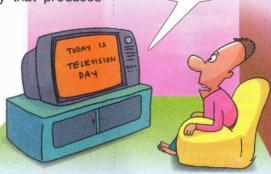
Television has changed our lives in somany ways that it is amazing. It entertains us, teaches us, broadens our horizons, and has broken geographical, linguistic, and cultural barriers.

Television brings us news from every corner of the world instantly, and focuses attention on the major issues facing the world with an urgency that produces

results. It has become a symbol of communication in today's world, and that is why the General Assembly of the United Nations has declared November 21st as World Television Day.

#### **World Television Day**

So, switch off all the television sets for this day.





**World Soil Day** 

#### **Rural Women**

The International Day for Rural Women is observed on 15th October every year. This day is a tribute to rural women everywhere in the world.

#### Why do we celebrate World Soil Day?

We all agree that we cannot live without food-but did you realize that there can be no life on Earth without soil? Soil provides support and nutrition to plants, including those that provide us with food, and soil that is rich in nutrients leads to healthy plants.

However, despite the essential role that soil plays on this planet, it is often neglected and degraded. The United Nations has recognized the importance of soil, and declared December 5th to be World Soil Day. This day is celebrated to highlight the fact that careful management of soil, backed up by research and development, is the foundation of agricultural production, and essential for the wellbeing not just of human beings, but of the planet itself.

Tell Me Why

# India Against Against Corruption



# Why is World Anti-Corruption Day important?

n simple terms, corruption occurs when a person misuses his or her authority for personal gain, at the expense of other people. Corruption brings unfairness, crookedness, and, in

more serious cases, can even harm lives and property. It slows down economic growth, and makes governments unstable.

The United Nations observes 9<sup>th</sup> December as International Anti-Corruption Day to create awareness of the need to fight corruption at every level.

International Anti-Corruption Day

Anti-corruption Day? What nonsense!





#### **Human Rights Day**

# Development Information

World Development Information Day is celebrated on 24th October every year. The purpose of observing this day is to draw the attention of world public opinion to development problems.

#### Why is Human Rights Day significant?

We are all born free, and each of us has the right to be treated equally. Everyone has the right to live in freedom and safety, to education and work, and to develop and make the most of one's potential. These are some of the basic human rights of every individual, and Human Rights Day, which falls on December 10th every year, is a celebration of these rights.

The United Nations celebrates this day to focus the world's attention on The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This Declaration was adopted by the United Nations on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1948, and has been accepted as the common standard of achievement in human rights for all peoples and all nations.



# Why is International Mountain Day special?

Mountains cover 27 percent of the world's land surface, and directly support 22 percent of the world's people. They provide us with water, energy, timber, biodiversity, and opportunities for recreation and spiritual renewal. Yet today, mountains are under threat from habitat destruction, climate change, and development. The United Nations has declared 11th

December as International Mountain
Day to provide an opportunity to create awareness of the importance of mountains to life.

International Mountain Day



# JANUARY



Street Children's Day



# A FEW MORE WORLD DAYS

*IOBSERVED BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES* 

# Why is Street Children's Day celebrated?

Around the world, there are millions of children whose homes are the streets. These children eat and live on the streets, no matter what the weather is, support themselves through begging, doing small jobs, or even stealing, and cannot afford an education.

But we must remember that they have the same potential to grow and become useful members of society as other children, if only they are given the opportunity. To do this, in 2009, Jugend Eine Welt, an organization, launched 'Street Children's Day', and this day is commemorated every year on January 31st. The day provides a platform for street children to speak out, so that their rights cannot be ignored.



#### Why is World Wetlands Day special?

Wetlands are areas where standing water covers the soil or an area where the ground is very wet. Wetlands are also called swamps, marshes or bogs. They are very important to the planet for several reasons. Wetlands provide a habitat for a wide variety and number of wildlife and plants and also clean, filter and store water. Wetlands continue to play an essential role in supporting modernday agriculture.

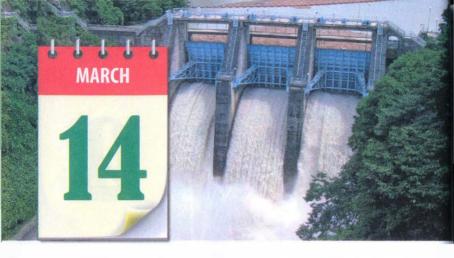
To draw attention to the importance of wetlands, World Wetlands Day is celebrated internationally each year on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

It marks the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in Ramsar, Iran, on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1971.

**World Wetlands Day** 

#### **Audiovisual Heritage**

The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is celebrated on 27<sup>th</sup> October every year, to build global awareness of the need for urgent measures to be taken to preserve audiovisual material.



International Day of Action for Rivers and Against Dams

#### Fighting Pneumonia

World Pneumonia
Day is annually held
on November 12<sup>th</sup> to
raise awareness of
the infectious
disease,
pneumonia.

# What is significant about the International Day of Action for Rivers and Against Dams?

Every person requires access to fresh water to survive. Beyond our direct need for drinking water, water is critical to the global food supply, and to meet our energy needs. To serve these multiple demands, more than 45,000 large dams, and an even larger number of smaller dams have been constructed across the world's rivers.

However, dams alter a river's course, and uproot the people living in the area. Everyyear on March 14<sup>th</sup>, people around the world celebrate the International Day of Action for Rivers and Against Dams, by creating awareness of the threats that the world's rivers face from dams.



#### When is World Sparrow Day?

ouse sparrows are one of the most easily recognized birds in the world. Unfortunately, their numbers are declining all over the world, and World Sparrow Day is observed on 20<sup>th</sup> March every year to promote awareness of the threats to the house sparrow.

In India, 'Citizen Sparrow,' is an ongoing citizen science project in which members of the public are encouraged to contribute information on the presence and absence of the house sparrow from different locations, and for different time periods.

#### **World Sparrow Day**



Welcome sparrows. Let's enjoy this Sparrow Day feast.



#### **World Theatre Day**

#### **Fighting Diabetes**

November 14<sup>th</sup> has been declared as World Diabetes Day, in order to raise awareness of diabetes.

#### Why is World Theatre Day celebrated?

rom the very beginning of civilization, the theatre has helped us discover and understand ourselves, and our relationship with our world. Theatre is also important to us because it helps us to express ourselves, influence public opinion and thought, and act as an instrument of change.

To celebrate the power of theatre, and to recognize it as a bridge for mutual international understanding and peace, World Theatre Day is celebrated on March 27<sup>th</sup> every year. Declared in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute, World Theatre Day is an opportunity to recognize the creativity of theatre artists in other cultures and communities, and to promote and protect different forms of theatre.

64 Tell Me Why



#### Why is April 1st a fun day?

April 1<sup>st</sup> is also known as April Fools' Day. It is a day for fun when harmless pranks, practical jokes, and hoaxes are played on people.

The origin of this day is uncertain.

Some see it as a celebration related to the turn of the seasons, while others believe it stems from the adoption of a new calendar. The second group believes that the practice started in 1582, the year France adopted the Gregorian calendar, in which New Year's Day was shifted from the end of March to the 1st of January.

**April Fools' Day** 





# International Children's Book Day

#### **Tolerance**

Tolerance is all about respecting and recognizing the rights and beliefs of other people. The International Day for Tolerance is observed on November 16th every year, to educate people on the need for tolerance.

# When is International Children's Book Day?

April 2<sup>nd</sup> is celebrated as International Children's Book Day, as this date is also the birthday of Hans Christian Andersen, who is the author of many famous children's stories like 'The Little Mermaid,' and 'The Ugly Duckling.'

The day started in 1925. Today, it is sponsored by the International Board on Books for Young People, or IBBY. Its aim is to inspire children to pick up a book, and start reading! The day also aims to promote international understanding through children's books, and to increase children's access to books. IBBY was founded in Zurich. Switzerland in 1953, and today, there are 70 National Sections from all parts of the world.

66 Tell Me Why



# When do we celebrate International Workers' Day?

nternational Workers' Day commemorates the historic struggle of working people throughout the world.

The history of Workers' Day goes back to 1886, when the police in Chicago tried to disperse a large crowd of striking workers who were protesting for a shorter workday of eight hours. A bomb was thrown at the an unidentified policemen bv assailant, and law officers opened fire on the defenseless crowd of unarmed strikers. However, it wasn't until 1891. after successful annual demonstrations on 1st May around the globe, that Workers' Day was formally introduced into the official calendars of many countries.

# International Workers' Day

I'm going to celebrate the Workers' Day! See you tomorrow.







## Red Cross and Red Crescent Day

# Road Traffic Victims

Almost 4,000 people are killed and many hundreds of thousands injured on roads throughout the world every day. The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is held on the third Sunday of November each year.

Radha Nair

# What is World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day?

he International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is the largest humanitarian network in the world. Its mission is to alleviate human suffering, protect life and health, and uphold human dignity, especially during armed conflicts and other emergencies.

It is present in every country, and supported by millions of volunteers. May 8th is celebrated all over the world as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day to honour the past, present, and ongoing mission of the world's largest humanitarian network.

May 8<sup>th</sup> is significant because it is the date of birth of the founder of the Red Cross, Henry Dunant, who was awarded the first ever Nobel Peace Prize in 1901.



# Why is International Nurses' Day celebrated?

Nursing is a truly noble profession. Nurses work round the clock tirelessly to serve patients. Whether it is monitoring a critically ill patient in the ICU, giving a sponge bath, or cleaning up a wound, they work with a dedication which is not always fully appreciated.

In recognition of the contributions made by nurses to society, International Nurses' Day is celebrated around the world every May 12th, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. The day focuses on a different theme every year.

The International Council of Nurses commemorates this day with the distribution of public information materials for use by nurses everywhere.

International Nurses'
Day

#### **World Toilet Day**

Over 2.5 billion people in the world, do not have proper toilets. To draw attention to their plight, and create awareness of the urgent need to provide them with these facilities, the UN has designated November 19th as World Toilet Day.



# International Museum Day

Sir,
I painted this
bone for
Museum Day
celebrations.



# Why is International Museum Day significant?

n the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C, the first known museum was opened in the University of Alexandria in Egypt. Since then, museums have appeared all over the world.

Museums are important in that they tell the story of Man the world over, and show how humanity has survived in its environment over the years. Museums also house things created by Nature and by Man- and in our modern society, they hold the cultural wealth of the nation in trust for future generations.

International Museum Day is celebrated on or around 18<sup>th</sup> of May every year to raise public awareness on the role museums play in the development of society today.



#### Why is World Music Day celebrated?

World Music day is celebrated in more than 430 cities and 110 countries around the globe on 21st June. The day, also known as Fete de la Musique, originated in 1982 in France, and since then, it has been celebrated every year as World Music Day.

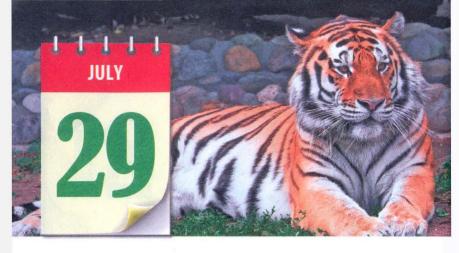
On this day, musicians perform for free in parks, museums, train stations, castles and other places to make music accessible to the public, and to create an opportunity to share a special bond through music.

This day also serves to promote peace and goodwill on Earth through music, the universal language. In addition, the United Nations believes that whosoever is involved in the music profession should surely be respected.

#### **World Music Day**

#### **Day for Thoughts**

The UN has declared the third Thursday of November every year as World Philosophy Day, to encourage people to share their philosophical heritage.



#### **International Tiger Day**

# Why is International Tiger Day important?

igers are one of the most magnificent of wild animals. They are revered in many countries- but they are also one of the most threatened species. We have lost 97 percent of all wild tigers over the past 100 years.

International Tiger Day is observed on July 29<sup>th</sup> every year to draw attention to the plight of one of the world's most

majestic species, for it is estimated that only 3,200 tigers are left in the wild now.

Tiger Day is backed by many animal welfare organizations.

On Tiger Day, the tiger must be the king.





## When is World Photography Day celebrated?

Photography is an invention that has revolutionized the way we see the world. World Photography Day is celebrated on August 19<sup>th</sup> every year, to celebrate photography- its past, present, and future.

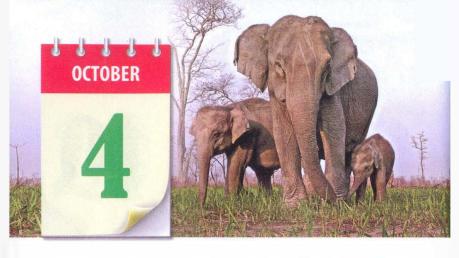
On this day, the first global online gallery was launched, with 270 photographs shared, and website visitors from over 100 countries. Today, we take our cameras for granted, and a photograph is nothing new. But, the next time you're taking a trip down memory lane, remember that there was once a time when photography didn't exist- and World Photography Day is all about remembering how truly special a photograph can be.

**World Photography Day** 

## **Palestinian People**

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people is observed on November 29th every year.

Sneha Rao



#### **World Animal Day**

## Why is World Animal Day special?

Anyone who loves animals will be happy to know that there is a World Animal Day. It is celebrated every year on October 4<sup>th</sup>, which is also the date of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

It is the day to celebrate, and be thankful to animal life in all its different

forms, to value and preserve our relationship with the animal kingdom, and most importantly, to acknowledge the keyrolethat animals play in our lives as our pets, our friends, and companions.





## When is International Students' Day?

nternational Students' Day is celebrated on November 17th every year. The date is significant, because it is the anniversary of the 1939 Nazi storming of the University of Prague.

It was also on 17th November 1973 that the Greek dictatorship attacked Greek students.

More than a decade and a half later, on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1989, the Czechoslovakian students rose up against another undemocratic government.

All these events are still inspiring students all over the world in their quest for truly democratic education and a democratic society, and International Students' Day has become a symbol of this quest.

International Students'
Day

#### **Civil Aviation**

International Civil
Aviation Day is
observed every year on
December 7th to raise
awareness of the
importance of international civil aviation. The
term 'civil aviation'
refers to all non-military
flights.



#### International Volunteer Day

## **Day for Sleep**

World Sleep Day has been observed every year since 2008. It is a wake-up call to underline the importance of good and healthy sleep and also to draw attention to sleep disorders, and educate the public on how they can be managed.

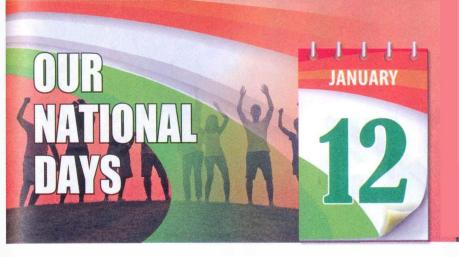
# Why is International Volunteer Day important?

Volunteers and Volunteer organizations have worked selflessly for many good causes, and for social change.

International Volunteer Day is celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> December every year. It offers an opportunity for volunteer organizations and individual volunteers to make visible their contributions - at

local, national, and international levels.

On this day, we not only celebrate and recognize the good work done by volunteers, but also pay special tribute to the contribution of youth volunteers in global peace and human development.



## Why is National Youth Day celebrated in India?

**National Youth Day** 

National Youth Day is celebrated every year in India on the birthday of Swami Vivekananda- January 12<sup>th</sup>. The day was first observed by the Government of India in the year 1984.

A number of programmes are organized by different socio-cultural organizations throughout the nation on this day.

Swami Vivekananda died more than 100 years ago, but after his death, his influence has been even greater than before. His teachings dealt with different aspects of religion, character building, and social issues. He believed that youth was the best period of a person's life, and the way in which this period was utilized would shape his or her future.





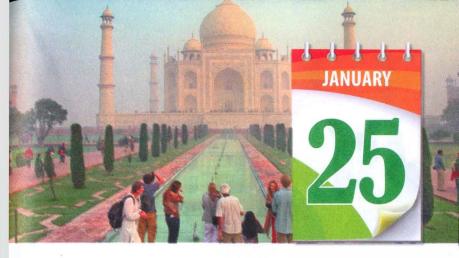


### When is Army Day celebrated?

On 15<sup>th</sup> January 1949, the Indian Army became independent of British controlwith General-later Field Marshal-K.M. Cariappa taking over as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Army from Sir Francis Butcher.

Since then, Army Day has been celebrated in India on January 15<sup>th</sup> every year, to commemorate the event and to salute the brave-hearted Indian soldiers, who face hardships and challenges.

It is a heartfelt tribute to those who have sacrificed many things - including their precious lives-to protect our nation. The Indian Army rises to every occasion not only in times of war, but also when natural disasters strike. We pay tribute to the defenders of our nation by celebrating Army Day.



## Why do we observe National Tourism Day?

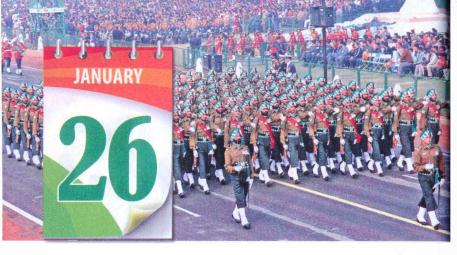
ndia is one of the most fascinating places a tourist can visit. From her sun kissed beaches to snow-capped peaks, from her dreamy lagoons to her lush forests teeming with wildlife, India offers a breathtaking variety of landscapes.

Her rich cultural heritage, her colourful history, her spectacular art forms, and timeless monuments all make India a dream tourist destination.

Tourism is a main industry in India today, and plays a keyrole in the nation's overall growth. To underline the importance of responsible tourism, and highlight the tremendous tourism potential of India, National Tourism Day is celebrated on January 25th every year.

### **National Tourism Day**





#### Republic Day

## Why is January 26th a day of pride for India?

January 26<sup>th</sup> is a day dear to the heart of every Indian, because it was on this day in 1950, that India declared herself a sovereign independent republic.

India won independence from the British on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947. Yet, until 1949, the country did not have a permanent constitution of its own. The Indian Constitution was finally approved only in November 1949, and came into effect on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950.

The day is celebrated every year with pomp and pageantry, and the focus is on military might, cultural diversity, economic growth and social progress. It is a day to remember the martyrs and heroes who laid down their lives for the nation.

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## Why can we never forget January 30<sup>th</sup>?

t was on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1948 that Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, was assassinated. It was modern India's darkest hour, and undoubtedly the biggest tragedy to befall a nation that had just won a hard-fought struggle for independence.

To pay tribute to this great son of Indiaand to all the other martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, January 30<sup>th</sup> is observed as Martyrs' Day every year.

It is a day of utmost solemnity, marked by the laying of wreaths, the observance of two minutes of silence at noon, prayer meetings, and the singing of bhajans. It is also a day when each and every one of us must give silent thanks to all the noble martyrs. Martyrs' Day



**National Science Day** 

### **National Sports Day**

29th August is the birthday of one of India's greatest sportsmen, Dhyan Chand, who was also the greatest hockey player this country has produced. National Sports Day is celebrated on his birthday to honour all sportsmen who have given their best, and contributed to the growth of sport in India.

Dev Nath

## When is National Science Day?

throughout India as National Science Day. This date was chosen because it was on 28th February 1928 that Sir C.V Raman, the great Indian physicist discovered the 'Raman Effect'.

The Raman Effect relates to the way that light is scattered when it passes through different materials. Its significance was recognized quickly by other scientists, and Sir C.V. Raman earned a Nobel Prize for his work in 1930. Considering the significance of C.V. Raman's work, it is only fitting that we honour him on National Science Day, which was first observed in 1986.

Since then, it has been celebrated every year by students, teachers, scientists and researchers.

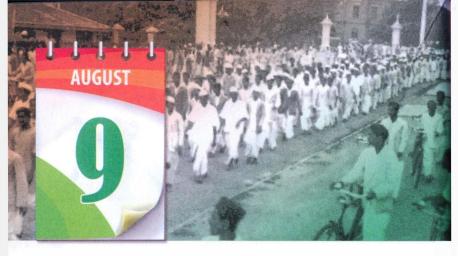


Why is National Technology Day significant?

National Technology
Day is observed on 11<sup>th</sup>
May every year. It was on
this day in 1998 that India
successfully carried out a
nuclear test at Pokhran.
This date is also significant
because it was on 11<sup>th</sup> May
that the first indigenous
aircraft, Hansa-3, was test
flown, and the Trishul
missile was first successfully test fired.



**National Technology** 



#### **Quit India Day**

### Why is Quit India Day important?

ndia was under British rule for more than 200 years, and the struggle to attain freedom from foreign rule was a long and hard one in which the Quit India Movement played a key role.

On9<sup>th</sup> August 1942, the Indian masses, led by Mahatma Gandhi, raised their voices to demand that the British quit India in a cry that the British quit India, and it was a turning point in the freedom struggle. Almost all the prominent leaders were arrested on the day the Movement began- but it refused to be held back, and only gathered momentum.

August 9th is observed as Quit India Day every year, to honour all those who took part in the freedom struggle, to free their motherland from the bonds of foreign rule.

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## Why is August 15th a special day for all Indians?

On August 15<sup>th</sup> 1947, the British flag was brought down from the Red Fort at Delhi, and for the very first time, India's national flag flew proudly in its place, proclaiming India's freedom from British rule. Since then this day, August 15<sup>th</sup>, is celebrated every year as Independence Day in India.

Our freedom is precious, because it was not won easily, but only through the blood, sweat and, tears of the great sons of India.

The day is a national holiday, and the main function is held at the Red Fort in Delhi. Similar functions are held at state capitals and unfurling of the national flag, and singing of the national anthem take place in schools and colleges.

Independence Day

### **National Postal Day**

October 10th is National Postal Day. The Indian postal department has been serving the nation for over 150 years, and has played a key role in uniting it.





#### Teachers' Day

Happy Teachers'

Day!

### Why is Teachers' Day important?

A teacher's role goes far beyond just teaching. Teachers help to shape the character of future generations, and also guide them towards their destiny.

To acknowledge the contributions to society made by teachers, Teachers' Day is celebrated throughout the world. The actual date varies from country to country- in India, it is observed on 5<sup>th</sup> September, the birthday of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, who was a

prominent thinker and educator, and who later became the President of India. Schools celebrate Teachers' Day in different ways- but all of them have a common message- "Thank you, dear teachers!"





## Why is Gandhi Jayanti observed?

October 2<sup>nd</sup> is the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, and this day is observed as Gandhi Jayanti every year as a tribute to the Father of the Nation.

The day is also observed by the UN as the International Day of Non-violence.

Gandhi Jayanti is an occasion to celebrate the life of one of the world's greatest leaders, and his contribution to the Freedom Struggle. Gandhiji is known for his non-violent civil disobedience movements in India and South Africa.

Gandhiji is the father of our Freedom Movement, for it was his charisma that united the nation against the British in its historic struggle for freedom.

Gandhi Jayanti is observed every year to acknowledge the great contributions of this great man to our nation.

#### **Gandhi Jayanti**



#### **Air Force Day**

### When is Air Force Day celebrated?

Every year, October 8<sup>th</sup> is celebrated as Indian Air Force Day. The day is celebrated in air force bases all across the nation with air shows and parades conducted by air force cadets. The Indian Air Force has been a fundamental part of the defence system of the nation along with the Indian Navy and Army.

## Flag Day

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The Armed Forces Day is also known as Flag Day. This day is observed on 7th of December. On this day, funds are collected for the welfare and the rehabilitation of widows and injured soldiers. It is a day when every citizen has a chance to say "thank you to our armed forces who are doing such a splendid job in defending our country."



## Why do we celebrate Children's Day on November 14th?

t is a fact that the children of today are the leaders of tomorrow, and so, the well-being of children should be one of the primary concerns of a nation.

In India, Children's Day is celebrated on November 14<sup>th</sup> every year, as it is the birthday of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. He was famed for his deep love for children, and the day is as much a tribute to him as it is to the children of India.

Childhood is about innocence and playfulness. It is about joy and freedom. Children's Day celebrates all this, while underlining the need to give children the right to enjoy and grow into healthy and educated citizens of the country.

Children's Day

### **National Press Day**

November 16th is
National Press Day. The
date is significant
because it was on this
day that the Press
Council of India started
functioning as a moral
watchdog to ensure the
high standards
expected from this
powerful medium.



#### **Navy Day**

### When is Navy Day celebrated?

On 4<sup>th</sup> December 1971, the Indian Navy sank three vessels near the Pakistani port of Karachi, during the Indo-Pak War of 1971. The day marked the first use of anti-ship missiles in the region.

To commemorate this great victory, and to recognize the role played by the Indian Navy in defending our borders, Navy Day is observed every year on the 4th of December.

A wreath-laying ceremony is held at the war memorial to remember and honour the brave heroes of the Indian Navywho lost their lives, while defending our country.

Navy Day is followed by a weeklong event showcasing naval submarines, warships, air crafts etc.

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## Why is December 23<sup>rd</sup> significant for farmers?

armers are the backbone of our nation, and on Farmers' Day, we pay tribute to the role that they play. This day is observed on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, which is the birthday of Chaudhary Charan Singh, the fifth Prime Minister of India.

During the brieftime that he was Prime

Minister, he managed to bring about agricultural reforms that helped to improve the lot of farmers in India.

Our nation remembers and honours him every year by celebrating Farmers' Day.

Farmers' Day

Today is Farmers' Day. Let's start some farming.



## **World Days - A Quick Look**

**Some Important Days to Remember** 

#### **JANUARY**

27 Day to remember the Victims of the Holocaust

#### **FEBRUARY**

4 World Cancer Day 20 World Day of Social Justice

#### MAY

22 Day for Biological Diversity
31 World
No-Tobacco Day

#### JUNE

5 World Environment Day
12 World Day
Against Child
Labour

#### **SEPTEMBER**

8 International Literacy Day 15 Day of Democracy 21 Day of Peace

### **OCTOBER**

2 Day of Non-Violence 24 United Nations Day



## MARCH

3 World Wildlife Day 21 Day of Forests 22 World Water Day

#### **APRIL**

7 World Health Day 22 Mother Earth Day 23 English Language Day

### JULY

11 World Population Day

#### **AUGUST**

12 International Youth Day
19 World Humanitarian
Day

#### **NOVEMBER**

10 World Science Day

#### **DECEMBER**

5 World Soil Day 10 Human Rights Day



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Winners of the GK Contest - 8. **Great Writers**- held in the January issue of Tell Me Why.

Singhal's Residence, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

4. Riju Dutta

College of FPT & BE, Anand Agricultural University, Gujarat.

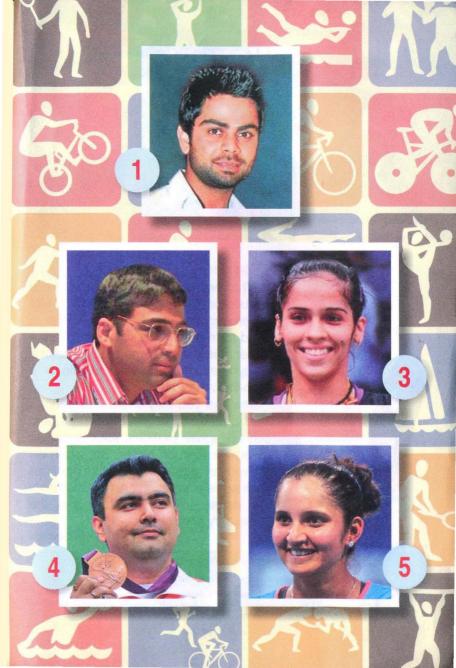
5. Pervez Ahmed

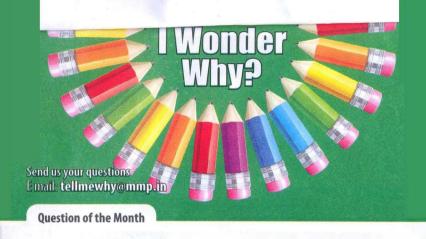
Pir Baba Gali, Pacca Talab Old Bahu Fort, Jammu.

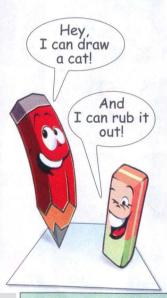
#### **GK Contest-8 GreatWriters - ANSWERS**

1. William Shakespeare 2. Charles Dickens 3. Leo Tolstoy 4. Mark Twain 5. Fyodor Dostoyevsky 6. Gabriel Garcia Marquez









#### How does an eraser work?

What will you do when you make a mistake while writing with a pencil? Take an eraser and rub it out. An eraser is used for removing pencil marks from a paper. It is generally made up of natural or synthetic rubber, vinyl plastic or a gum-like material.

Now, as you might know, a pencil's lead is made up of graphite, water, and clay. Graphite particles stick better on an eraser than on paper. So, when we rub with an eraser, the graphite particles stick to the eraser and are removed from the paper. We can then make the necessary corrections.

Alwin George

#### MANORAMA TELL ME WHY - WORLD DAYS

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